

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
Washington, D. C. 20426

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Drought Management Workshop

To The Parties Addressed:

River basins in many areas throughout the country are experiencing record low flows and water resources in many regions of the country are extremely stressed. This past year, the Commission has seen an increase in requests for relief of flow requirements at hydropower projects. For this reason, the Office of Energy Projects is initiating a public workshop to exchange information and discuss water management options during low flow conditions. We are inviting project licensees; Federal, State, and local agencies; and interested stakeholders to join us in these discussions.

The workshop will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on Wednesday, November 13, 2002. The main focus of the workshop will be regional droughts and how they can affect operations at FERC projects. Issues like consumptive water uses, recreation uses, and environmental needs will also be discussed. Presentations will be made by climatologists who can provide insight into the various drought management strategies, representatives from project licensees who have had relevant experiences at hydropower projects, and senior Commission staff. We welcome participation from stakeholders who can assist with valuable information on managing water resources during regional droughts. We will provide opportunities for information exchange and stakeholder collaboration, so bring your ideas to the workshop. The main objectives are:

- To gain an understanding of drought indicator methods, and review how hydropower projects can support planning and mitigation efforts to conserve and manage water resources;
- To exchange information and examine case studies of Commission actions on water management issues at specific hydropower projects; and
- To explore avenues for fostering cooperation in resolving issues, and methods to facilitate the Commission's processing of license waiver and variance requests in emergency situations.

Our goal is to promote better coordination and response time among stakeholders in water emergency situations. The workshop will provide ideas and planning tools that can be used to develop water management initiatives during low flow periods at hydropower projects. This will allow licensees to integrate their operations with regional drought planning and mitigation efforts.

The workshop will be held at the Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel on Wednesday November 13, 2002. An agenda and directions to the hotel are attached. If you plan to attend or have suggestions for the agenda, **please respond via facsimile to Dorothy Thompson at 202-219-2732, or you can email our team at: droughtmanagement@ferc.gov**. Please include in the response the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of all attendees from your organization.

We look forward to your participation in the workshop. To help us enhance our panel discussions, please consider issues and/or questions you would like to have addressed at the workshop. If you have specific questions, you may contact Kirk Cover on 202-502-8832 (charles.cover@ferc.gov), or Rebecca Martin at 202-502-6012 (rebecca.martin@ferc.gov).

J. Mark Robinson
Director
Office of Energy Projects

Attachment 1 - Agenda
Attachment 2 - Workshop Location & Travel Information



FERC - Office of Energy Projects

Workshop – Regional Droughts & Managing Hydropower Projects

(November 13, 2002)
Atlanta, Georgia

- 8:45 a.m. Arrival & Sign-in
- 9:00 a.m. Opening Remarks, Workshop Objective & Participant Introductions
(George Taylor – FERC)
- 9:15 a.m. National & Regional Droughts
(Dr. Michael Hayes – National Drought Mitigation Center)
(Dr. Michael Janis – Southeast Regional Climate Center)
*(Dr. David Stooksbury – State Climatologist - Georgia and Asst Professor of
Engineering and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Georgia)*
- ◆ drought indicators
 - ◆ forecasting and monitoring
 - ◆ panel discussion/Q&A's
- 10:20 a.m. Focus Issue Discussion
1. Drought Mitigation Planning
(Robert Kerr – Georgia DNR, Environmental Protection Division)
(Kirk Cover – FERC)
- ◆ coordinating the planning effort
 - ◆ sources of information
 - ◆ open discussion
- 10:45 a.m. BREAK

11:00 a.m. Focus Issue Discussion (continued)

2. Water – Meeting the Demands of Multiple Users

*(Dr. Bud Badr – S Carolina DNR Tom Fransen – N Carolina DENR)
(Yadkin-Alcoa PowerGen, Inc) (Phillip Lucas – Carolina P&L)*

- ◆ overview of river basin water needs “across state borders”
- ◆ case study – Yadkin & Yadkin/Pee-Dee River FERC licensed projects
- ◆ panel discussion

12:00 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m.

3. Hydropower Management – Smith Mountain Project

*(Joe Hassell – Virginia Dept of Environmental Quality)
(Michael Thacker – American Electric Power Co.)*

- ◆ flow requirements and meeting water demands
- ◆ case study - Smith Mountain FERC licensed project
- ◆ open discussion

4. Flow Requirements and Unique Recreation Issues

(Denton Lindsay – S Carolina Public Service Authority)

- ◆ unique requirements at hydropower projects
- ◆ case study – Santee-Cooper FERC licensed project
- ◆ open discussion

FERC Case Studies – Staying in Compliance

(Rebecca Martin – FERC)

- ◆ short-term deviation from license requirements
- ◆ temporary waiver of license requirements
- ◆ formal license amendment

3:00 p.m. Proactive Drought Initiatives

(Bill Stroud – Duke Energy)

- ◆ cutting edge project management at the Catawba-Wateree FERC licensed project
- ◆ open discussion

3:30 p.m. Interactive Session and Workshop Wrap-up

(TJ LoVullo – FERC, Workshop Participants)

- ◆ communication and collaboration
- ◆ partners for solutions

LOCATION AND TRAVEL

LOCATION

Address: Atlanta Marriott Marquis Hotel
265 Peachtree Center Avenue
Atlanta, GA 30303

Reservation Line: (404) 521-0000 or (800) 228-9290
Fax: (404) 586-6299

ACCOMMODATIONS

A limited number of rooms has been set aside at a rate of \$139 per night and will be held until one week prior to the workshop. GSA rates are available for government employees. If you are interested in attending and staying at the hotel, you should call the reservations number below and indicate that you are with the FERC Drought Management Workshop.

TRANSPORTATION

Transportation from Hartsville Airport: (1) MARTA (\$1.75 subway) - get off at Peachtree Center (you exit inside the Peachtree Center Mall and will see signs to the hotel); (2) Airport shuttle- runs every 30 min to major hotels for \$14 one way or \$22 RT; or (3) Rental car- take I-75 North to Exit 248C (GA-IOE/Freedom Parkway towards International Blvd/Carter Center); turn left at first light and go 3 blocks to Peachtree Center Ave; turn right and go 2 blocks - hotel is on the right.